

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. Cancelled
2. Cancelled
3. Cancelled
4. Cancelled
5. Cancelled
6. Cancelled

7.(currently amended) A magnetic recording medium for communication with a transducer moving relative to the recording medium along a line of relative transducer motion, comprising:

a substrate having a substrate surface;

a seed layer disposed on the substrate surface;

a soft magnetic underlayer disposed on the seed layer, the soft magnetic underlayer comprising a magnetic material having a magnetic moment larger than 1.7 Teslas, the soft magnetic underlayer having a texture that provides a magnetic easy axis that has an easy axis alignment parallel to the line of relative transducer motion;

a magnetic storage layer disposed on the soft magnetic underlayer; and

~~The magnetic recording medium of Claim 1~~ wherein the texturing maintains the easy axis alignment in the presence of an externally applied field.

8. Cancelled
9. Cancelled
10. Cancelled
11. Cancelled
12. Cancelled
13. Cancelled
14. Cancelled
15. Cancelled

- 16. Cancelled
- 17. Cancelled
- 18. Cancelled
- 19. Cancelled
- 20. Cancelled
- 21. Cancelled
- 22. Cancelled

23. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a magnetic recording medium for communication with a transducer moving relative to the recording medium along a line of relative transducer motion, comprising:

providing a substrate having a substrate surface;

depositing a seed layer on the substrate surface;

depositing a soft magnetic underlayer on the seed layer, the soft magnetic underlayer comprising a magnetic material having a magnetic moment larger than 1.7 teslas, the soft magnetic underlayer having a texture that provides a magnetic easy axis that has an easy axis alignment parallel to the line of relative transducer motion;

depositing a magnetic storage layer on the soft magnetic underlayer; and

~~The method of Claim 18 further comprising~~ selecting a seed layer material from the group: ruthenium, permalloy and tantalum-copper to reduce coercivity  $H_C$  in the soft magnetic underlayer.

24. (original) The method of Claim 23 further comprising applying an external magnetic field to establishes the texture of the soft magnetic underlayer.

- 25. Cancelled
- 26. Cancelled
- 27. Cancelled

28. Cancelled

29. Cancelled.

30. Cancelled.

31. Cancelled

32. Cancelled

33. Cancelled